



CITY COUNCIL

Administrative Oversight and Land Use Committee

**Tuesday, June 16, 2009
Meeting Report**

Attendance: M. Baez, S. Marmarou

Others Attending: S. Katzenmoyer

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 pm by S. Marmarou, Chair.

Tadd Casner (appointment – Historical Architectural Review Board)

Ms. Baez questioned how long it had been since Mr. Casner was a City employee. Mr. Casner stated that he left the City in 2004 to pursue his education.

Mr. Marmarou stated that the City is grateful to those who are willing to serve as volunteers. He questioned why Mr. Casner was interested in this board. Mr. Casner stated that he lives in the Sterling Mansion on Centre Ave. He stated that he loves living in the City. He stated that he has always enjoyed history and architecture. He is a member of the Historical Society and stated his belief in preserving history.

Mr. Casner stated that he has attended HARB meetings in the past to observe. He noted his knowledge of historic architecture.

Ms. Katzenmoyer noted the difficulty in reaching Miguel Herrera. Mr. Marmarou suggested sending a certified letter to determine his continued membership on this board.

The Administrative Oversight Committee agreed to recommend the appointment of Mr. Casner to the Historical Architectural Review Board.

Mr. Waltman joined the meeting at this time.

Marcia Schmehl (reappointment – Disruptive Conduct Review Board)

Mr. Marmarou requested feedback from Ms. Schmehl regarding this board. Ms. Schmehl stated that things are moving smoothly. She stated that one member tends to constantly disagree with the rest of the members but that decisions are generally unanimous.

Ms. Baez questioned how many hearings were held in 2008. Ms. Schmehl stated that there were two hearings in 2008; both resulted in tenants being evicted. She stated that she loves the City and is not giving up. She stated her resolve to remain in the City and active in the community.

The Administrative Oversight Committee agreed to recommend the reappointment of Ms. Schmehl to the Disruptive Conduct Review Board.

Barry Lloyd (reappointment – Charter Board)

Mr. Marmarou questioned why Mr. Lloyd was interested in continuing with this board. Mr. Lloyd stated that it took him approximately a year to get up to speed with the Board. He stated that their work is very interesting. He stated his belief that the City needs to comply with the Charter. He stated that most of the Board's decisions are unanimous. He stated the importance of being educated on the Charter.

Mr. Marmarou questioned Mr. Lloyd's stance on the residency issue. Mr. Lloyd stated that he believes City residency is important and should be followed.

The Administrative Oversight Committee agreed to recommend the reappointment of Mr. Lloyd to the Charter Board.

Christopher Fegley (reappointment – Minority Business Procurement Board)

Mr. Marmarou questioned why Mr. Fegley wished to continue working with this board. Mr. Fegley noted his work with minority businesses and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He stated that future work in this area needs to be done. He stated his belief that local hiring practices would assist this effort. He stated that this is a difficult undertaking but that it is not impossible.

Mr. Marmarou questioned the discussions at meetings. Mr. Fegley stated that the issue is discussed in depth and that it is his hope that the Board will become obsolete once better practices have been put in place. He noted the need for additional members.

Ms. Baez stated that she would recruit for this board. She requested that Ms. Katzenmoyer send her the application via email. Mr. Fegley noted his efforts to recruit members.

Mr. Waltman questioned if the board's goal was to pass local legislation. Mr. Fegley noted that good policies need to be set but that didn't necessarily mean legislation.

The Administrative Oversight Committee agreed to recommend the reappointment of Mr. Fegley to the Minority Business Procurement Board.

Theodore (Todd) Auman (appointment – Redevelopment Authority)

Mr. Marmarou noted the importance of this authority. He questioned why Mr. Auman was interested in serving. Mr. Auman noted the long history his family has had in the City. He stated that Reading has a proud history and he has always been interested in redevelopment and the rebirth of the City. He stated that this would be an excellent opportunity for him to help make this happen. He stated that he has been working with Mr. Boscov to recruit a restaurant to open in the new parking garage. He stated that he has met and spoken with Mr. Mukerji. He stated that his background in real estate development will be an asset to this authority. He stated his belief that people's surroundings (buildings) set the tone for how people live and interact with one another. He stated that a positive environment will encourage and strengthen the community.

Mr. Marmarou questioned if Mr. Auman felt the redevelopment effort of 35 years ago hurt the City. Mr. Auman stated his opinion that revitalization does not occur from tearing buildings down. He stated that he felt it was a tragedy when those historic buildings were razed. He noted the need to modernize the City while still honoring the past.

Mr. Marmarou stated the influx of out of town owners during the past that bought properties, did not maintain them, and collected full assessed value when these properties were razed. Mr. Auman stated that the City is currently in a similar situation.

Mr. Marmarou stated that Mr. Auman is not a City resident but that he has long and deep ties to the City. He stated his belief that Mr. Auman has the City's best interest at heart. Mr. Auman stated that the City is not dead. He stated that this would be a great opportunity. He stated that a unified vision is needed along with public/private partnerships.

Mr. Waltman questioned when Auman's Funeral Home was established. Mr. Auman stated that it was established in 1889.

The Administrative Oversight Committee agreed to recommend the appointment of Mr. Auman to the Redevelopment Authority.

The Administrative Oversight Committee adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Shelly Katzenmoyer,
Deputy City Clerk